

**Introduced by Senators Machado, Alpert, Bowen, Kuehl,  
Romero, Scott, and Sher**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Benoit, Diaz, Dymally, Hancock,  
Laird, Matthews, Montanez, Mullin, Pavley, and Salinas)

February 2, 2004

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 59—Relative to teen pregnancy prevention.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 59, as introduced, Machado. Teen pregnancy prevention.

This measure would declare May 2004, to be “Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month” to coincide with May 5, “National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.”

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The United States has the highest teenage
- 2 pregnancy rate and number of births of all developed countries.
- 3 Approximately one million teenagers become pregnant each year
- 4 and nearly four out of every 10 young women become pregnant at
- 5 least once before the age of 20 years; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Despite the recent decline in teen birth rates, teen
- 7 pregnancy remains a significant social problem that impacts every
- 8 community. More than 50,000 California teenagers are expected
- 9 to become pregnant in 2004; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Reducing teen pregnancy is consistent with the
- 11 State Department of Education’s mission to ensure that all students
- 12 achieve their full academic potential, to promote students’ healthy
- 13 physical and emotional growth and development, and to reduce the
- 14 dropout rate in our schools; and

1 WHEREAS, The health effects of early pregnancy and  
2 childbearing can be particularly serious and long lasting.  
3 One-third of pregnant teens receive inadequate prenatal care, often  
4 resulting in babies that are more likely to have low birth weight,  
5 childhood health problems, and more frequent hospitalizations  
6 than those babies born to older mothers; and

7 WHEREAS, Teen pregnancy is also an adult problem because  
8 adults create the environment and deliver the messages that shape  
9 teen attitudes about sexuality. It is the responsibility of adults in  
10 California to take action and create communities in which  
11 adolescents can become sexually healthy by providing  
12 comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education, positive adult  
13 role models, and access to contraception for teens who are sexually  
14 active; and

15 WHEREAS, A sexually healthy adolescent is well informed  
16 about a broad range of sexual health topics, knows when and where  
17 to seek additional information and health care, understands sexual  
18 orientation and identity, has a positive body image and sense of  
19 self, has the skills to negotiate relationships, understands his or her  
20 rights in a sexual relationship, and understands the potential  
21 consequences of sexual activity; and

22 WHEREAS, Even with the recent drop in teenage pregnancy  
23 rates, California's teenage pregnancy rates still rank second  
24 nationally; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares May 2004, to be  
27 "Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month" to coincide with  
28 May 5, "National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy"; and be it  
29 further

30 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
31 this resolution to the Governor and to the author for appropriate  
32 distribution.

